

STOP THE TIDE OF SUBSIDIZED CANADIAN LUMBER FROM FLOODING SOUTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, this weekend is notable in that Sunday is April Fool's Day, and the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia in particular, is about to play a very sick April Fool's joke on the American people and particularly those in rural communities in the western United States.

On Saturday night at midnight, the U.S.-Canadian Softwood Lumber Agreement expires, and nothing has been put in its place to stop a tide of subsidized Canadian lumber from flooding south beginning on April Fool's Day.

Since the administration of Ronald Reagan, Presidents have recognized and strongly fought against the unfair competition of the wholly subsidized Canadian lumber and sawmill industry. This administration must act strongly to perpetuate those controls and protections against unfair competition.

Mr. Speaker, in Canada the Crown owns 95 percent of the timber; and in Canada the Crown gives away that precious resource. They have a bizarre bidding process. Well, it is not a bidding process; they just contract with companies, no bidding process, and then they say we will look at the logs on the first truck you bring out and we will grade them and set a price. So the companies go in and find the rattiest trees and bring out a truckload of ratty trees, and the government scalers look at them and say we are going to charge you \$10 for that truckload. Then the lumbermen go back in and gather up precious old growth and other priceless timber, and they begin trucking it out. They pay virtually nothing for the resource. They observe no environmental constraints; there are no riparian protections. They are devastating their salmon and our salmon by these harvest practices, and now they want to take those subsidies and supplant our much more responsible industry here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, they are sounding pretty tough, too. Here is Gordon Wilson, minister of forests from British Columbia: "Why should we turn the energy tap on going south at the same time we cannot export our lumber to the biggest market we have?" He is talking about cutting off natural gas supplies to the western United States which is already staggering under extortionately high natural gas prices. One Canadian timber executive said the United States better "learn to speak Arabic and read by candlelight." Pretty tough words.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the Bush administration could be tougher in their response. If we retaliate against Canada for bringing in these subsidized lumber imports, the Cana-

dians will fold in a second. Nationally they are running a huge trade surplus with the United States. They cannot afford irresponsible actions or words like this on the part of one province to undermine their trade relationship with the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking and I have asked the Bush administration, along with a large number of Members of the House and Senate, to continue restrictions on the import of subsidized Canadian lumber. Just a 5 percent increase in this subsidized, unfairly produced, irresponsibly environmentally produced lumber coming across our border will cost 8,000 jobs in the Pacific Northwest. Just a 5 percent increase. And they have got it piled up because part of their sweet deals with these companies, they not only give the timber away, they require them to harvest it whether or not there is a market. So they have piles and piles of processed lumber waiting to come south from Canada.

Mr. Speaker, it is not free and fair trade by any measure of the imagination. Now, there are some special interests in the U.S. who would like to wipe out our lumber and sawmill industry and get that cheaper Canadian lumber. They have taken a shortsighted view. After the U.S. industry is gone, the Canadians will probably jack up the price. They will probably still give it away to their companies; but they will jack up the price, just like they have done to us on natural gas.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the home builders and others who are pushing the Bush administration to back off. It is not in the long-term interest of the United States to not have a healthy and robust industry in this country, and it is also going to cost some customers because those customers will not be buying houses, they will be abandoning houses when those communities close down.

Mr. Speaker, let us not let a bunch of hardliners in British Columbia play an April Fool's joke on the American people in the Bush administration. Let us retaliate against unfair trade practices and continue the restrictions that have been in place, that were first put in place under the Reagan administration, continued under the first Bush administration, continued under the Clinton administration, and they must be continued under the Bush administration. Nothing has changed. They are still competing unfairly, and they are still going to destroy American communities and jobs if the administration does not act.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEFAZIO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 10 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, April 3, 2001, at 12:30 p.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1405. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Onions Grown in South Texas; Decreased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV01-959-1 IFR] received March 28, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1406. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Raisins Produced from Grapes Grown in California; Reduction in Production Cap for 2001 Diversion Program [Docket No. FV01-989-1 FIRA] received March 28, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1407. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia; Increased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV01-955-1 FR] received March 28, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1408. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Coniothyrium minitans Strain CON/M/91-08; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [OPP-301107; FRL-6772-1] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received March 26, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1409. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Bay Area Air Quality Management District [CA 179-0275; FRL-6954-9] received March 26, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1410. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—New Stationary Sources; Supplemental Delegation of Authority to the State of South Carolina [SC-AT-2001-01; FRL-6956-1] received March 26, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1411. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut; Approval of Several NOx Emission Trading Orders as Single Source SIP Revisions [CT064-7222A; A-1-FRL-6942-6] received March 26, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.